



## 2012 SECTOR FOCUS

### Economic Growth

**AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORT** - Liberia is a focus country under President Obama's Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative. Primary implementation of FTF is through the Food and Enterprise Development (FED) program. This five-year program aims to increase agricultural production and rural incomes; stimulate private enterprise growth and investment; and build local capacity to sustain and expand these investments. FED strengthens agricultural value chains for rice, cassava, vegetables and goats; supports agricultural extension, vocational training, and business development services; and develops pilot activities in peri-urban agriculture.

The Smallholder Oil Palm Support (SHOPS) project also supports the agricultural sector by working to increase the productivity and profitability of Liberia's smallholder oil palm sector, as well as improve the enabling environment and support functions for the sector. The project is focused on Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties.

**FOOD SECURITY SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS** – Two Food For Peace Multi-Year Assistance Programs, Liberian Agriculture, Upgrading Nutrition, and Child Health (LAUNCH) and Health, Agriculture, Nutrition, Development and Support (HANDS) are ongoing in Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee counties. These 5 year programs focus on improving agricultural practices and expanding economic opportunities; preventing malnutrition through early identification and treatment; and developing community capacity to increase access to education for jobs.

**INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT** – The Road Infrastructure to Support Enterprise (RISE) program (award expected 2013) will aim to improve up to 500 km of rural feeder roads and build capacity of Liberian road construction contractors. Related projects will also improve infrastructure for Ministry of Agriculture county offices and vocational centers, the Forestry Training Institute, and education programs at Centers of Excellence in Agriculture at Cuttington University and Engineering at University of Liberia, Fendell Campus.

**ENERGY SUPPORT** – The Liberia Energy Sector Support Program works to advance national energy policy goals for rural, renewable power; support regulatory reform to spur private sector investment; and pilot projects in small hydro and biomass energy generation. Direct support is provided to the international management contractor bringing new investment and improved operations to the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

**FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT** – The People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER) project builds on the successes of the Land Rights and Community Forestry Project by continuing to build the capacity of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and other government agencies, and by strengthening communities to improve forest management, biodiversity, and sustainable livelihoods.

**TRADE POLICY AND CUSTOMS SUPPORT** – As part of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Program for Liberia, the 3-year Liberia Trade Policy and Customs program started in June 2011 works to support tariff harmonization and removal of unnecessary non-tariff barriers to trade; strengthen trade policy institutions and improve policies; modernize customs practices; and strengthen protection of intellectual property rights.